



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1976

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PROPOSED EXTENSION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME
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DETAILED PROCEDURES FOR ADMINISTERING THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME TO COVER ABLE-BODIED PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 55 ARE BEING DRAWN UP, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE LIONS CLUB OF TAI PING SHAN LUNCHEON MEETING, HE SAID THE PROCEDURES BEING DRAWN UP WOULD BE BASED ON FIVE PRINCIPLES.

THEY ARE :

- * APPLICANTS SHOULD BE RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG FOR TWO YEARS,
- * APPLICANTS MUST PROVE THEY ARE UNEMPLOYED AND PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT,
- * APPLICANTS MUST REGISTER WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT AND MUST ACCEPT JOBS ARRANGED FOR THEM,
- * APPLICANTS MUST RE-AFFIRM THEIR UNEMPLOYMENT STATUS EVERY MONTH AND,
- * YOUNG PERSONS BETWEEN 15 AND 17 YEARS OF AGE INCLUSIVE SHOULD ONLY BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE AS HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS.

HE SAID THE PURPOSE TO EXTEND THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME WAS TO ASSIST FAMILIES WHOSE INCOME WAS BELOW THE LEVEL LAID DOWN IN THE SCHEME, SO AS TO MAINTAIN THEM AT A BASIC SUBSISTENCE LEVEL.

THE PRINCIPLE BEHIND IT, HE POINTED OUT, WAS TO HELP ABLE-BODIED PEOPLE WHO WERE WITHOUT WORK TO QUICKLY BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT AGAIN AND TO PREVENT THEM FROM DEVELOPING A SENSE OF DEPENDENCY.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW CAREFULLY WORKING OUT PROCEDURES FOR ADMINISTERING OF THE NEW SCHEME. IT IS HOPED THAT WITH FURTHER EXPERIENCE IMPROVEMENT WILL BE MADE TO STRENGTHEN THE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ABUSE,+ HE SAID.

REGARDING FEAR THAT PEOPLE MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE NEW SCHEME, MR. LEE SAID FROM PAST EXPERIENCE CASES OF SUCH NATURE WERE RARE.

+I FEEL QUITE CERTAIN THAT THE NEW MEASURE IS UNLIKELY TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO GIVE UP THEIR JOBS FOR A LESSER AMOUNT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE,+ HE SAID.

THE DIRECTOR DISCLOSED THAT DURING THE PAST 5-1/2 YEARS SINCE THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT STARTED PROVIDING CASH GRANTS, THE RATE OF ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN REVISED FOUR TIMES BY REFERENCE TO THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INDEX OF PRICES.

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HE CONTINUED THAT THE NUMBER OF FIELD UNITS NOW OPERATED BY THE SOCIAL SECURITY DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT HAD INCREASED FROM EIGHT TO 25 WHILE THE NUMBER OF AIDED FAMILIES HAD GROWN FROM 8,000 TO ABOUT 55,000.

+FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, THE EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$200 MILLION,+ HE SAID.

+ALL THESE HAVE INDICATED THAT THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME HAS FULLY DEMONSTRATED ITS VALUE AND EFFECTIVENESS IN HELPING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF POVERTY IN HONG KONG,+ HE ADDED.

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NEW ROAD FOR ABERDEEN

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS TO BUILD A NEW ROAD IN ABERDEEN AS PART OF A MAJOR SCHEME TO PROVIDE A FAST TRAFFIC ROUTE BETWEEN THE AREA AND CENTRAL DISTRICT.

THE NEW ROAD WILL PROVIDE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE ABERDEEN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET FROM THE NEWLY WIDENED SHEK PAI WAN ROAD.

MR. CHEN SHAO-CHI, ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE P.W.D.'S HIGHWAYS (HONG KONG) DIVISION, SAID TODAY WORK ON THE PROJECT WOULD START IN FEBRUARY AND WOULD TAKE ABOUT 22 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

HE SAID THE NEW ROAD WOULD BE A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY WITH TWO LANES IN EACH DIRECTION BETWEEN SHEK PAI WAN ROAD AND ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD.

IT WOULD BE ABOUT 770 METRES LONG AND 22 METRES WIDE WITH FOOTPATH ON BOTH SIDES, HE ADDED.

+A FOOTBRIDGE WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED NEAR YUE KO STREET TO ENABLE PEDESTRIANS TO CROSS THE ROAD IN SAFETY,+ SAID MR. CHEN.

+AS PART OF THE CONTRACT THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO THE CHINESE PERMANENT CEMETERY WILL BE IMPROVED,+ HE ADDED.

MR. CHEN SAID THAT THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAD ALREADY CARRIED OUT SEVERAL SCHEMES TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW ON THE EXISTING ROAD NETWORK SERVING CENTRAL AND ABERDEEN.

HE SAID WORK WAS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY ON THE WIDENING OF POKFULAM ROAD, SEVERAL SECTIONS OF WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN WIDENED, AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENT WORKS WERE IN HAND.

WONG CHUK HANG ROAD AND SHEK PAI WAN ROAD HAD ALSO BEEN WIDENED PROVIDING AT LEAST TWO LANES IN EACH DIRECTION.

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PARTIAL RESUMPTION OF AIRMAIL SERVICE TO EASTERN TIMOR
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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE AIRMAIL SERVICE FROM HONG KONG TO EASTERN TIMOR, FORMERLY KNOWN AS PORTUGUESE TIMOR, WHICH HAS BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE MID-SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, WILL BE PARTLY RESUMED FROM MONDAY (DECEMBER 13).

UNREGISTERED FIRST CLASS AIRMAIL LETTERS AND CARDS DESTINED TO EASTERN TIMOR, WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR POSTING.

HOWEVER, ALL OTHER POSTAL SERVICES TO EASTERN TIMOR ARE STILL SUSPENDED.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE INTERRUPTED FROM 1 A.M. TO 6 A.M. ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 11) TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

PREMISES AFFECTED ARE THOSE BOUNDED BY CHOI HUNG ROAD, TSUEK LUK STREET AND TAI YAU STREET, INCLUDING SHEUNG HEI STREET. ALSO AFFECTED ARE THOSE BOUNDED BY CHOI HUNG ROAD, YAN OI STREET, FOO YUEN STREET, SHUNG LING STREET, YI LUN STREET, HONG KEUNG STREET AND TSUEK LUK STREET, INCLUDING YAN HING STREET AND KAM WING STREET.

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PUPILS TOLD TO DEVELOP QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP AND INITIATIVE
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THE FUNCTION OF THE STAFF IN PROMOTING EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN A SCHOOL IS PRIMARILY ONE OF GUIDANCE, NOT ONE OF CONTROL, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY SAID THIS EVENING.

+THE BROAD LINES ON WHICH THESE ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE ORGANISED WILL NATURALLY BE PLANNED BY THE STAFF BUT THE DETAILED ORGANISATION FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES SHOULD, TO MY MIND, BE LEFT TO THE PUPILS, EVEN THOUGH IT CAN BE DONE MORE EASILY BY THE STAFF.

+ONLY IN THIS WAY CAN WE EXPECT TO DEVELOP IN THE PUPILS SUCH QUALITIES AS LEADERSHIP AND INITIATIVE,+ MR. TOPLEY TOLD THE SPEECH DAY OF ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE WHICH IS CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE SCHOOL.

ADDRESSING THE PUPILS AND RECENT GRADUATES OF ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE, MR. TOPLEY ADDED, +THERE IS NO NEED FOR ME TO SAY THAT YOUR SCHOOL PLACES GREAT EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING IN YOU THOSE QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP AND INITIATIVE WHICH WILL SERVE YOU WELL WHEN YOU COME TO LEAVE SCHOOL AND GIVE YOUR SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY.

+YOU NEED ONLY TO LOOK AT THE MANY FORMER PUPILS OF ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE WHO ARE NOW LEADING PERSONALITIES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY TO REALISE THAT THIS IS SO.+

MR. TOPLEY WAS SURE THAT THE PUPILS AND RECENT GRADUATES WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE THEIR BEST TO HONG KONG.

ST. PAUL'S WAS ITSELF A LIVING COMMUNITY. THAT WAS WHAT EVERY SCHOOL SHOULD BE.

THE DIRECTOR STRESSED THAT IT WAS NOT BY THE MULTIPLICITY OF SCHOOL CLUBS BUT BY THE ENTHUSIASM AND VIGOUR OF THEIR LIFE THAT THEY CONTRIBUTED MOST TO THE CORPORATE HEALTH OF THE SCHOOL.

HE POINTED OUT THAT FURTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES TOOK THE FORM OF COMMUNITY SERVICE BY WHICH THE SCHOOL TRANSCENDED THE CONFINES OF ITS NORMAL LIFE.

+THEY ARE SCHOOLS WHICH TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN RENDERING ASSISTANCE ON FLAG DAYS AND TO THE COMMUNITY CHEST AS WELL AS BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS IN POORER NEIGHBOURHOODS. THERE ARE OTHERS WHICH MAINTAIN A HOSPITAL COT OR SUPPORT ACTIVITIES AND ORGANISATIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF CHILDREN,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

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SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE SCHEME
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, WILL TOMORROW (FRIDAY) PRESENT CERTIFICATES TO THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO TOOK PART IN THIS YEAR'S SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE SCHEME OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS.

THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD IN THE CALIPH ROOM, AMBASSADOR HOTEL, 16TH FLOOR, MIDDLE ROAD, KOWLOON AT 3.15 P.M.

YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE CEREMONY COVERED.

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INTER-INSTITUTION TALENT CONTEST
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THE PROBATION AND CORRECTIONS DIVISION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A TALENT CONTEST FOR TRAINEES UNDER THE CARE OF THREE VOLUNTARY AND FIVE GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AT THE BEGONIA ROAD BOYS' HOME IN YAU YAT TSUEN AT 2.30 P.M. TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

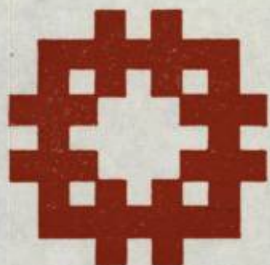
THE TALENT CONTEST IS PART OF THE INTER-INSTITUTION EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR.

TAKING PART WILL BE THE HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE, SHING TAK STREET BOYS' CENTRE AND CHAK YAN CENTRE. THE FIVE GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, WHICH ARE RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, ARE THE CASTLE PEAK BOYS' HOME, MA TAU WEI GIRLS' HOME, O PUI SHAN BOYS' HOME, BEGONIA ROAD BOYS' HOME AND KWUN TONG HOSTEL.

DURING THE COMPETITION, THE TRAINEES WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SHOW THEIR TALENT IN DRAMA, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AND DANCING.

MRS. KO CHENG SIU-MAN OF THE SPORTS AND RECREATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE THE ADJUDICATOR AND MRS. C.D. MARR, A MAGISTRATE, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO THE WINNERS.

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HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS RELEASE 新聞稿

Thursday, December 9, 1976

RENTS IN NEW ESTATES KEPT DOWN TO ACCEPTABLE LEVEL

Rents in new housing estates have been kept down to a level which the great majority of people offered new homes in them can comfortably afford, a spokesman for the Housing Authority said today.

"More than 80 per cent of families offered housing in these much-improved estates not only can afford the rents but are very happy with their accommodation," said the spokesman.

"Many of these people come from redevelopments or clearances and like all tenants of these new estates are glad to have the chance to begin a new life in well-planned estates set in healthy outdoor surroundings where all facilities are virtually on the doorstep."

The spokesman stressed that if any tenants in new estates had over-reached themselves financially they could approach the estate manager and ask to be transferred to a cheaper estate.

"However, any such cases are likely to be quite exceptional since every individual housing case is given the most sympathetic consideration and the whole position, financial and otherwise, is outlined to prospective tenants before they make their choice."

In addition, said the spokesman, there was a growing interchange of flats arranged by the Tenants' Mutual Exchange Bureau whose services were available to all tenants of the Authority.



The spokesman said that the Authority had a very wide range of housing stock and it would be both unjust and uneconomical not to use all accommodation available, whether in the older low-rent estates or the new and much-improved ones.

"Thus those who cannot afford the rents at new estates -- despite the fact that they are being kept down to relatively low amounts -- are offered cheaper housing, dependent of course on it becoming available," said the spokesman.

Finally, he added, it should not be forgotten that from September 1 the maximum rent allowance payable under the Public Assistance Scheme was increased to \$285 for an eligible family of four to five people, \$345 for a family of six to seven, \$406 to a family of eight to nine, and \$557 for a family of 10 or more.

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The spokesman stressed that if any tenants in new estates had over-reached themselves financially they would approach the estate manager and ask to be transferred to a cheaper estate. "However, any such cases are likely to be quite exceptional since every individual housing case is given the most sympathetic consideration and the whole position, financial and otherwise, is outlined to prospective tenants before they make their choice." In addition, said the spokesman, there was a growing inter-change of flats arranged by the Tenancy Mutual Exchange Bureau whose services were available to all tenants of the Authority.